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HOUSE MEMORIAL 3

**49TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2009**

INTRODUCED BY

Nathan P. Cote

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE NEW MEXICO LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TO ASSEMBLE A  
TASK FORCE TO STUDY THE IMPACT OF AN EXPECTED DOUBLING OF THE  
SIZE OF WHITE SANDS MISSILE RANGE ON LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS,  
TRANSPORTATION CORRIDORS AND OTHER STATE SERVICES.

WHEREAS, White Sands missile range near Las Cruces and  
Alamogordo has received a new mission, expanding its  
responsibilities from being a test range to deploying and  
redeploying soldiers; and

WHEREAS, currently, White Sands missile range has a daily  
economic impact of one million eight hundred thousand dollars  
(\$1,800,000); and

WHEREAS, White Sands missile range currently spans forty  
miles east to west; and

WHEREAS, by fiscal year 2013, an additional eleven

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1 thousand three hundred twenty-eight soldiers and their family  
2 members are expected to be stationed at White Sands missile  
3 range; and

4 WHEREAS, the number of persons on base will at least  
5 double by that year; and

6 WHEREAS, it is estimated that some seven hundred fifty-  
7 eight million dollars (\$758,000,000) will be required in new  
8 construction to prepare for housing the new residents; and

9 WHEREAS, even with construction by a firm contracted from  
10 Washington, D.C., to accommodate those expected by 2013, White  
11 Sands missile range is likely to be short by eight hundred  
12 fifty-nine homes; and

13 WHEREAS, another sum of approximately two hundred eighty  
14 million dollars (\$280,000,000) will be needed for expanding  
15 roads to accommodate the newcomers; and

16 WHEREAS, the impact on the surrounding communities in  
17 transportation, commuter support, construction and other needs  
18 is not yet clear; and

19 WHEREAS, it is unclear how much funding will be required  
20 to school the families of those newly stationed at White Sands  
21 missile range; and

22 WHEREAS, the increased needs for water and wastewater  
23 treatment because of the additional population could affect  
24 surrounding existing communities;

25 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF

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1 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico  
2 legislative council be requested to assemble a task force to  
3 study the impact of doubling the size of White Sands missile  
4 range; to create a preliminary plan for transportation, school  
5 and wastewater and water improvements; and to coordinate  
6 information and recommendations with existing local groups  
7 convened to analyze similar problems; and

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force examine issues,  
9 including education, roads and transit and other infrastructure  
10 needs, as well as the need for an interstate compact; and

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New Mexico legislative  
12 council instruct the task force to report to the appropriate  
13 interim legislative committee by October 2009; and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
15 transmitted to the co-chairs of the New Mexico legislative  
16 council; White Sands missile range; the secretary of public  
17 education; the secretary of transportation; the secretary of  
18 economic development; the secretary of energy, minerals and  
19 natural resources; and the governor.